



## **LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission DRAFT Minutes**

**Date:** Wed October 4, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Conducted by Hybrid Participation - Arlington Community Center HHS Conference Room and via Zoom

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following in-person or virtual options:

Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

2. \*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\* In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial in information provided.

Present: Susan Ryan-Vollmer, Helene Newberg, Andy Robinson, Lisa Krinsky, Molly Blaauw-Gillis, Kym Goldsmith, Kari Sasportas, Paloma Cotton-Herman

Absent:

Liaisons: Len Diggins

Guests: N/A

### **Minutes**

1. Remote Participation Statement and Guidelines - Helene
2. Land Acknowledgement - Helene
3. Review and approval of Aug 2023 Minutes - Motion to accept by SRV, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KG. Unanimous approval.
4. Consent Agenda - Motion to accept by SRV, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KG. Unanimous approval.
5. Debrief Pride Discussion – Community Engagement Working Group reviewed key takeaways from 2023 events and proposals for 2024, including assembling a broader group of volunteers for a Pride Committee, including vendors and

expanded food options, and exploring live entertainment. Suggested model where vendors would agree to share a percentage of funds raised. KG suggested we evolve number of vendors gradually, over a few years, rather than expand too quickly, which others agreed with.

Also discussed crosswalk painting and the desire to continue the effort, due to popularity, but explore safer/alternative paint options (explore with Shattuck's) as well as a more permanent crosswalk within Arlington. Need to work with Len & Eric to further explore.

KS – Volunteered to assist in developing accessibility guidelines to adopt for the Pride celebration.

## 6. Working Group Updates

- a. Education – Last Saturday back to school GSA/QSA/Rainbow Alliances gathering, with indoor/outdoor activities. 125-150 people attended. Met with AHS GSA advisors. 4 window paintings at Roasted Granola. Rod's replacement is Dr. Walker. Wants to meet regularly. Human growth & development curriculum unanimously approved. Resolution by School Committee last June has adopted state guidelines and amended 2<sup>nd</sup> policy that all kids will have access to all school events, including athletics. HRC collaboration half day of learning. Refuge Point CEO, Sasha Chanoff, being pursued as speaker. Would like to share cost of honorarium.
- b. Community Engagement – Town Day big success. Need more she/her pronoun buttons. Susan would like to attend next working group call to discuss how we engage with other Arlington organizations to build partnerships and identify intersectionality.
- c. Town Systems & Policies – Envision Arlington survey. Kari analyzed the results reported over last 3 years. More female responses 60% vs. 30% male. Non-binary people consistently rated Arlington as less-welcoming and feelings of safety. Lower overall satisfaction. Small percentage identified as other than male or female. Need to promote completion of the survey to our list. 2022 public safety and DEI showed higher percentage of issues with people not identifying as male or female. If we keep gender ID and sexual orientation, we only have 1 other opportunity. Kari suggested a new question on highest priority for advancing visibility & welcoming community for LGBTQIA+ residents and allies. Keeping last year's questions and suggesting the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Andy asked if we want to consider doing a follow-up survey with our distribution list. Kari will further hone 3<sup>rd</sup> question prior to our next meeting to get input. Kari asked Molly if she could help getting APS formatting of their survey questions for better alignment.
- d. Communications – Ramped up back on social media after summer break. Susan working closely with Julia on Library topics. For Oct, we're focusing on LGBTQ+ History Project. Nov is Indigenous Peoples Month.

- e. Budget - \$5K in general fund (must be spent each year) and ~\$3K in the revolving fund (can be pulled over from prior years, includes donations). Did have ~\$1K in expenditures for Town Day swag and printing of RC brochures. Plan made for co-chairs to review budget info to ensure we're on track. Aspiration to develop a connection between planned spending and annual events to better plan funding needs. Working group trying to figure out how to best support the APS groups, given other funding through APS and PTO and other funding sources. Trying to gather information on current funding to determine what we need to budget for.
  - f. Commissioner Recruiting – We've been getting a lot of traction with our open Commissioner slots and fairly immediate responses to the call for applicants. Wanted to have the newest Commissioners get more involved in the recruiting process and participating in the interviews. Andy suggested inviting applicants who don't get selected to get involved in our working groups.
7. Liaison Updates – None present.
- a. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
  - b. Police Department (APD)
  - c. GSA/QSA-AHS/Ottoson/Gibbs
  - d. Library
  - e. Select Board
  - f. Council on Aging
8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary – No guests attended.
9. Close and Next Meeting. Thursday, October 19, 2023. 6:30pm Hybrid. Motion to adjourn by SRV, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KG. Unanimous approval.